



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE WORK OF THE RED CROSS IN THE EVENT OF WAR¹

BY ELIOT WADSWORTH

Acting Chairman, Central Committee, American Red Cross

For twelve years, the American Red Cross has been planning, organizing and preparing for the very emergency in which this country now finds itself. As the official organization created by the Congress of the United States for volunteer help to the armed forces, the management has recognized the great responsibilities which would devolve upon the Red Cross in the event of war.

In these days of alarm and excitement, when the whole country is thinking of war and when at every cross road and in every railroad train the people are debating as to the extent to which the country is prepared, it is most fitting that the great nursing organizations of the country, at this convention which you have been holding, should think of the extent of the country's preparedness for the care of the sick and wounded. Here is the first step, the first thing we have done besides the loaning of money. We are sending over three hundred of these Red Cross nurses, whom we are all so proud of, and one hundred and fifty of the best doctors in the country, to help take care of the men over there who are fighting our battles. We can give no direct help in the fighting line for many months, but we can give help in this way. I hope that if necessary we will send unit after unit in order that this work may evidence in France, in England, in Russia and Italy, as the need grows greater, that we will do everything we can, even to sacrificing all of our best professional doctors and nurses and getting along here as best we may.

I saw some of those units that the Red Cross sent abroad, working. I spent a day or two at Kiev, in Russia, where we had a Red Cross unit, ten doctors and twenty-two nurses, taking care of a hospital with six hundred beds. They had brought out to the hospital one hundred and sixty cases at nine o'clock the night before, and five in the morning the day we arrived, and the morning after we arrived they brought sixty men out on street cars. Those who could sit up were in an ordinary car; those who were on stretchers were pushed into the side of an open car in two tiers, the way we push a bread pan into an oven. When they arrived at this old polytechnic school where this Red Cross unit was working, they had running water only in the cellar, and these devoted American women took them in hand, clipped their hair short,

¹ Read at the twentieth annual convention of the American Nurses' Association, April 30, 1917.

killed off any uncomfortable accompanying animals that they had, gave them a bath, for the first time, perhaps, in months, took their uniforms, in which they had lain in the trenches or in the hospitals, and then traveled for days on a hospital train, cleaned them as much as they could and put them away in bags. At last those men were put to bed, carried upstairs into wards, and perhaps for the first time in their lives they lay between two clean sheets in the most perfect comfort that they had ever enjoyed. It was a wonderful thing to see.

The head of the Russian Red Cross at Kiev told me at that time that eight thousand men had come in there on hospital trains. When you think that in two weeks those hospital trains had brought into Kiev as many men as we mobilized last summer to go to the border, and that those devoted doctors and nurses in the hospitals were giving every man a bath and putting him to bed, it makes you realize how tremendous a matter a modern war is. Think of the excitement we had in getting our men to the border last summer; and yet at one base hospital in Russia they would have handled that whole organization, mostly flat on their backs, in two weeks, have put them all to bed and given them a nice rest for two or three weeks besides.

Every one of our units, now, large and small, is recruited as far as possible from one hospital or another. That is, there is a mother hospital, and a large part of the personnel comes from that mother hospital; so that when they move in, as they may, into a hotel or a high school or a great field of tents, set up their beds, their operating tables, their sterilizers and spread out their equipment ready for work, they are almost the unit from which they start. Whereas if you threw twenty-five doctors, fifty nurses and twenty-five nurses' aids who had never seen each other before, from all parts of the country, into such conditions, you could not get any service comparable with what you would get from a unit that had worked together before, any more than you could from a football team or any other organization of a similar sort.

This work has been going on for a year. It is accelerated tremendously now and we hope to keep it going, ahead of any possible need that may arise, either in Europe or in this country. The foundation for it all is in the Red Cross organization, the Red Cross volunteer who is ready to serve, ready to give time, effort, money, to create these different pieces of machinery that we will all want to see. We are organizing the country, or rather the country at the present moment is organizing itself so fast that we can hardly keep up with it. We have, as you know, the chapter as the main foundation, and the chapter is simply a local committee in the community representing the local Red Cross members. The people in the community may form a chapter,

elect their own governing body, their own executive committee and their own officers, and have an almost autonomous Red Cross organization for that town or county or state.

There are now five hundred and forty-two Red Cross organizations, on all of whom we can rely for work and on all of whom we depend for initiative, thoughtfulness, imagination, as to what they can do to help their troops or to help the families of the troops who are left in distress because their breadwinner is gone.

Red Cross work cannot be carefully defined. It is the desire to help, the desire to relieve people who are in trouble. That is really the meaning of the Red Cross flag and the work of the Red Cross Committee. We in Washington cannot direct these five hundred odd committees; we must let them go on with as much effort, as much initiative as they will, giving them constantly advice and suggestion as to the lines of work that they can follow. It is striking to hear from all the chapters the different ways in which they are being helpful. Yesterday the Baltimore Chapter found that thirty cases had developed from the guardsmen who were along the railroad, contagious diseases and three or four accidents. There was practically nothing to take care of these men with except some blankets. And the Red Cross chapter, through its Military Relief Committee, had the quickness and imagination to take out there the complete equipment from their sewing room, pajamas, sheets and pillow cases and the like, of which they had none. They have practically taken that little hospital under their wing. We could not have told them on Saturday night what to do in case a situation like that developed. We had to leave it to them and they were ready.

Another chapter found that its regiment, mobilized from its own home city, was being moved to somewhere in New York, and that the physician of the regiment had been unable to replenish his supply of medicine since he had returned from the border only a short time before. The chapter, without a moment's hesitation, took some of its funds, went to the drug stores in the city and bought a complete equipment, so that instead of starting off with a half or a quarter of what he should have, he was able to go with it all.

I came here really to say a word of appreciation for what the nurses have done by their systematic organization and what they will be called upon to do, what we will expect them to do, what the army will expect them to do now that the need has arisen. The country is at war. It is a great war. We hear talk in the papers sometimes as if it were nearly over. We have heard that a good deal. I do not think we ought to consider that we are in this war for a short period. It may

be a very long one. We must depend upon the experts in every line to do their share; and certainly there are no experts in this country who are better trained and better able than the nurses, and particularly those nurses who have enrolled as Red Cross nurses and have put themselves on record as being willing to go.

The sacrifice made by the doctor and the nurse when they volunteer, when they throw everything aside and go abroad, is far greater than we stay-at-homes can possibly make in money or in service or in time. They give up all their local connections, their positions, whatever they may be; the doctors give up their practice, throw it all aside, and start off across the ocean, in spite of the submarine danger, in spite of whatever might come to them, and offer their services. The man who enlists, it seems to me, does not do one-tenth of what these individuals who are going to Europe are doing or will do, after they get on board the steamer and start for Europe for an indefinite period.

The Red Cross nurse has long been a byword throughout the country. You know the qualifications necessary for enrollment and how the list, so carefully prepared and kept up, has proved of the greatest possible use in disasters, great or small, in epidemics, in our work in Europe at the beginning of the war, and in the work last summer at the border, where our troops were mobilized.

One person more than all others is responsible for this great corps of trained and practically enlisted experts who are now at the disposal of our soldiers and sailors. She it was who had the vision to appreciate the need of such an organized force. The work she has done in the Red Cross has been one of the highest types of preparedness. There has been no letting down of standards; no favoritism has been shown. This army of nurses has been enrolled with all the care that would be given in the enlisting of the finest army. The result of this work is that the Red Cross has enrolled for service more than nine thousand nurses whose qualifications are known, who have taken all the steps required by the Army Medical Corps to permit of their immediate enlistment in this service. It is a splendid contribution to America that the Red Cross is now able to make. You all know to whom I refer as being responsible for this work, Miss Jane A. Delano, Director of the Red Cross Nursing Service.

Miss Delano has served without compensation for many years, working so hard and continuously that her friends have often warned her that it was dangerous for her to do so, but the spirit was willing and, fortunately, the flesh was not weak. The harder the work, the greater the demands upon her energy, time and patience, the more she seems to thrive. And as a result, the Red Cross Nursing Service is ready at

this hour, more ready than perhaps any branch, official or unofficial, of the United States.

As the war develops, as our young men go into the field, first for training and then perhaps for the same bit of fighting that the Allies have been enduring for nearly three years, this corps of Red Cross nurses will win the gratitude, affection and admiration of every American citizen. Fathers, mothers, wives and sweethearts of this great army of young men, who go out to fight the battle of liberty, will come to a full realization of what it means, to know that trained and devoted women are in the hospitals to give prompt, careful and tender care to those whom they have sent as their greatest contribution to the cause in which we are now enlisted.

TEACHING NURSES IN TRAINING THE USES AND VALUE OF SICKNESS STATISTICS¹

By LOUIS I. DUBLIN, PH.D.

Statistician, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company

The completion of clinical records and of case histories is now one of the established duties of the graduate nurse. The nurses with whom my professional work brings me into closest contact, namely, public health nurses, spend a considerable part of their working time in completing records of their cases. I have often thought that these duties are looked upon by nurses as a necessary evil, as a sort of penalty which they must pay for the more pleasant and more interesting work at the bedside or in the home. The statistician for whom these records are prepared is considered, I have imagined, a sort of *bête noir*, somehow powerful and not to be denied but an awful nuisance, nevertheless. This attitude, if I am correct in my diagnosis, results from the fact that in few, if any, training schools for nurses is any effort made to instruct students in the wider use and value of the records they must complete. There is, of course, a certain amount of direct and often excellent instruction in filling out the forms used, especially the t. p. r. charts and the other bedside records, but this is as far as such instruction goes. The nurses do not see what it is all about, how this work which takes so much of their time serves useful ends; how it aids for example, in hospital administration; how it serves, except in the most general way, the patient, the physician or the community.

Miss Crandall, with her full and rich experience in public health nursing sees the value of the statistical side of nursing work and would

¹ Read before the twentieth annual convention of the American Nurses' Association, Philadelphia, May 1, 1917.